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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF
M. E. CAMERON

THE STANDARD FAMILY PHYSICIAN. By Professor Carl Reissig, M.D., Hamburg, Germany, and Smith Ely Ielliffe, A.M., M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacognosy, Columbia University; Instructor in Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Columbia University; Visiting Neurologist, City Hospital, New York City; Associate Editor of "New York Medical Journal;" Managing Editor "Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases." Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and London.

This work which has for a sub-title: "A Practical International Encyclopedia of Medicine and Hygiene Especially Prepared for the Household," has a long list of foreign and American and some English names on its editorial pages. It is a sort of abridged encyclopedia—that is to say only the subjects indicated and those related thereto are included in the two volumes which carry the subjects alphabetically from A to Z.

Putting such a book in the hands of the public has at the first glance the appearance of madness as inviting the said public to learn the diagnosis and treatment of its own ailments to the complete undoing of the medical profession. On second thoughts, it seems a mammoth propagandist movement—for we know there is nothing calculated to convince the average man or woman that he or she is unsound in every member, like reading with untrained intelligence the symptoms and course of disease. For neither of these purposes, however, has the present work been undertaken and with so much pains completed. It is in recognition of the vast amount of misleading and spurious information on medical matters that is constantly poured on the market, either gratis and accompanied by a brand of "heal-all" patent medicine; or wrapped in a mantle, purporting to be Charity, and like it, covering a multitude of sins; in either case being merely a baited line to catch the dollars of the gullible public. To supplant such literature and to give in its place a reliable substitute which to some degree may help those who are ignorant to a recognition of the value of symptoms and assist in the decision of doubtful cases where it is a question of need for a physician

or not, is the reason for introducing the "Family Physician." The ethics of family life, without a family physician are discussed, and the disadvantages to which both the physician and his patient are subjected when they are strangers to each other are noted. There is no thought farther from the subject in hand than any idea of letting down professional bars or regarding with equanimity the taking over of the practice of medicine by the public generally. Naturally such a book is only used in reference. It contains, beside many colored plates and profuse illustrations, a very fine mannikin for the use of students.

TEXT-BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY, A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF INSANITY. By Dr. E. Mendel, A.O., Professor of the University of Berlin. Translated by William C. Krauss, M.D., Buffalo, New York. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.

Few schools of nursing include in their curriculum the care of the insane. Yet this branch of nursing is often adopted as a specialty, as being the best paid, and the one allowing more liberal assistance than any other. Of course the insane person differs not at all from the sane in the need of careful nursing, but the nursing might be more satisfactorily done if the nurse were not continually being "up against" the mysteriousness and inscrutability of the disease. The book under our present consideration does not lighten every dark corner of the subject by any means; but must be found an aid, to understanding better, one's perplexing and perplexed patient. We do not find the entire subject reduced to utter simplicity—indeed we find the learned author regretting the limitations of knowledge of pathological processes producing insanity; but one lays down the book, if one has read faithfully and intelligently, with a better understanding of the need of sympathy for this most pathetic and appealing of all the range of the weak and helpless who come under a nurse's care. Treatment is very lightly sketched in; the book being more concerned in the symptomatology and the etiology of mental diseases, dividing the subject into general psychiatry, and special psychiatry; the first treating of disturbances of sense and the sense-perception, disturbances of thought of memory-feeling, etc.; the second of idiotism, mania, dementia, melancholia, the epileptic psychoses, the psychoses due to the abuse of alcohol and various drugs, the psychoses induced by inorganic poisons: carbonic oxide, lead, iodoform, and some others; the psychoses due to disturbances of the thyroid gland and to other functional disorders; also the syphilitic psychoses.

Dr. Krauss, who has done the book into English, is editor and